



FCRB Program Status Report State Board Meeting – March 2020

1. Dashboard and Other Data

a. Number of Reviews Conducted

	Number of Youth Reviewed *	Number of Review Slots
FY 2018	2,055	1,364
FY 2019	1,876	1,243
FY2020, Q1	497	319
FY2020, Q2	501	337

(*) Not unique number of children as some children have more than one review in a year.

b. IP Participation at Reviews

The Dashboard tracks on overall participation by Interested Parties at the reviews held in a given month. Quarterly reports are generated and provided to DHS SWAs and SAMs and available for ICAB staff.

	DHS			All Other Interested Parties		
	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total
Oct 2019	65%	24%	89%	20%	6%	26%
Nov 2019	81%	14%	95%	25%	7%	32%
Dec 2019	58%	33%	91%	26%	4%	30%

c. Timeliness of FCRB Report Distribution

Per the DIA-DHS MOU, Timeliness of review reports: In 90% of the foster care cases reviewed by a LFCRB, LFCRB review reports will be provided to the juvenile court, DHS caseworker and all interested parties within 15 days of the foster care administrative review pursuant to Iowa Code §237.20(2)(a).

- FY'19 - 99.8%
- FY'20 to date - 100% each month

2. LFCRB Rationale Statements

Rationale statements are prepared by local program coordinators for new and reappointed local board members. Rationale statements are prepared by local program coordinators for new and reappointed local board members. For the current fiscal year to date, the State Board has reviewed and approved:

- New local board members – 23
- Reappointments – 6



PHOTO: DSH

3. FCRB Program FY20 Priority Project Updates

Develop and Implement FCRB Quality Review Process

Facilitator training was delivered to all contract and staff facilitators in February 2020 to address the issues identified in the Quality Assessment Project. A refresher training is being delivered to all board members in March or April 2020 regarding how to make findings, identify barriers and make more effective recommendations to influence case permanency planning for children reviewed by the local boards.

The FCRB Program Committee is tasked with identifying and implementing methods to increase attendance and/or participation by interested parties to have more complete information available during the review process.

Another assessment of FCRB reports will be conducted in October 2020 to determine whether quality of reports is improving.

Develop and Implement an annual FCRB program evaluation process

The FCRB Program Committee is finalizing an interested party survey as part of implementing an annual evaluation program as outlined in Iowa Code §237.18 (6). "The evaluation program shall be designed to evaluate the effectiveness of citizen reviews in improving case permanency planning and meeting case permanency planning goals, identify the amount of time children spend in foster care placements, and identify problem issues in the foster care system. The state board shall submit an annual evaluation report to the governor and the general assembly."

Interested parties involved in the FCRB process will be invited to complete the survey. The annual evaluation will include survey results, data on the amount of time children spend in foster care placements, compiled comment card responses, and the compiled data on systemic barriers identified by the local boards. The survey will be conducted in May 2020 and the first annual evaluation report will be contained in the FY20 ICAB Annual Report.

4. Case Selection Plans with Department of Human Services

In January 2020, DHS Social Work Administrators verbally agreed to the case selection plans for all 27 local boards. 24 of the 27 local boards continues to review the cases of children in foster care to include licensed relative care placements. No reviews are being done for children placed with non-licensed relatives. The only exception to this criterion is children who are placed under the guardianship of DHS. Local review boards will continue to review children under the guardianship of the Department pursuant to Iowa Code §237.15.

The three remaining boards in Linn and Jones Counties do not have enough available slots to review all the children in foster care; therefore, the case selection plan for those boards is as follows: All youth ages 0-14; all non-Caucasian youth ages 15-17 one time per year; Caucasian 15-17 year olds are not reviewed. Adding another board would provide an opportunity to review more youth aged 15-17.

5. Expansion Plan for Local Boards

Forecasting for number of reviews to be conducted by local boards is dependent on the impact of the Family First Preservation Services Act (FFPSA) on the number of children in foster care. Lower numbers of children to review decreases the amount of FCRB related IV-E activities which will have an impact on the amount of IV-E reimbursement to the Iowa Child Advocacy Board.

There are five DHS Service Areas. The following table shows the number of counties in each DHS Service Area that have local board coverage, as well as recommendations to explore for possible expansion of the FCRB Program.

DHS Service Area	# of Counties with LFCRB	Recommended Expansion
Western	10 / 30	None at this time
Northern	06 / 27	Add Floyd to Bremer et al
Eastern	10 / 10	NA
Cedar Rapids	16 / 17	Add Jasper to Poweshiek Add at least 1 Linn Board
Polk	08 / 15	Pilot Board in Polk
Totals	50 / 99	53 / 99

The FCRB Program seeks State Board approval to move forward with establishing local citizen foster care reviews for Floyd (34 children), Jasper (57 children), and adding one more board in Linn County (serves 50 more children) between now and the end of FY21.

- Adding these counties/boards does not require additional staff; however, staff coverage needs to be determined for coordination/facilitation and board support.
- It will require communication with judges, DHS Service Area Managers and Social Work Administrators, and other child welfare partners.
- Linn County will require recruitment of another local board (5 members minimum).

Further, the FCRB Program seeks State Board approval to explore establishing a pilot local citizen review board in Polk County.

- The number of children from Polk County in foster care, under DHS, as of 1/31/2020 was 686.
 - The average length of time in care (in years) is 1.49.
 - Establishing a pilot board will require direction from the State Board to move forward with developing a plan to implement the board. The plan includes meeting with Judges, DHS personnel, providing communication to service providers, attorneys and guardians ad litem, as well as identifying ICAB resources for coordination, facilitation and board support.
- Possible target populations for a pilot board to be explored include:
- Of the 686 children, 51 have been in foster care for **three or more years**. This could be the population reviewed by the pilot board.
 - Judge Witt and Joy Greer (CASA Advocate) are interested in establishing a local board to review cases of children whose permanency has been established as Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). These children will age out of the foster care system.